



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

April 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240. (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia

The Lions Club is an international organization that collects eye glasses for people living in developing countries who cannot afford to buy them. The Lions club determines the prescription of the glasses and puts each pair in a separate bag until that prescription is requested. The glasses are then shipped overseas. Contact your local Lion's Club, or glasses can be mailed to the Lions Club:

Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
212 North West Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

For more information go to: www.pwcweb.com/d24alions/recycl.html

2005 GoGreen Awards

The James River Green Building Council recognized leaders in the Commonwealth for green building in 2004 at their first annual awards recognition program. Green buildings are friendly to the environment and conserve energy.

- ✓ Arlington County won the government award for their metro planning. The metro serves highly populated areas and runs along commercial corridors. Arlington County also adopted the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building standard and thus, the Langston Brown School and Community Center became the first LEED Silver building in the state in 1993.
- ✓ The Virginia Sustainable Building Network won the GOGreen award for the non-profit sector. VSBN provides education and workshops on building methods designed to save energy, reduce waste, and promote recycling.
- ✓ Moseley Architects is a private company that designed the first LEED Gold K-12 school in the world.
- ✓ Dan Slone is the national lawyer for the U.S. Green Building Council. He also serves on committees and represents the interests of organizations interested in promoting sustainable buildings and neighborhoods.

For information about these awards and the James River Green Building Council, go to: <http://www.jrgbc.org/#Leadership> For information about LEEDs go to: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=1>

Did You Know?

- ✓ Recycling Rate Reports are due by April 30, 2006.
- ✓ Governor Tim Kaine has declared April 2006 as Electronics Recycling Month in Virginia. This is the first ever statewide initiative to be organized by the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) and the Computer Recycling Initiative (CRI). For a list of recycling events across the Commonwealth, visit VRA's web site at: www.vrarecycles.org
- ✓ Alexandria residents will have an opportunity to bring paper documents that need to be shredded to the city's Earth Day Celebration at Four Mile Run Park on Saturday April 29 from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Residents are asked not to bring more than 150 pounds of paper for shredding. For more information contact: anna.collinson@alexandriava.gov
- ✓ Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg held a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 8 at the recycling center on Belman Road in Fredericksburg. They will hold another Household Hazardous Waste Day on May 6 at the Regional Landfill at 489 Eskimo Hill Road in Stafford. For more information call 540-658-8680.
- ✓ Hampton Roads residents had an opportunity to find out where the trash went once it was picked up from the curb aboard the Tour de Trash Bus. They saw the Bethel Landfill, Yard Waste Processing Site, the Refuse-Fired Steam Plant, and recycling facilities. Call 757-727-6776 or go to: <http://www.hampton.va.us/hccc/www.html>
- ✓ April 16 – 22 is National Environmental Education Week. <http://www.eeweek.org/> For additional information, contact Ann Regn at 804-698-4442 for information about Virginia's plan for environmental education.

35% Recycling Challenge

DEQ is assisting the EPA in the development of a Resource Conservation Challenge Action Plan to increase the national recycling rate to 35%.

EPA Region 3 has targeted waste paper and food wastes, and is collecting information from EPA Region 3 states on major generators of these materials. Once this list is complete, the EPA will be coordinating contacts with the generators to identify viable recycling options for the targeted materials.

To get more information go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserve/action-plan/act-p1.htm>

Recycling Lines Continued

Recycling Rate Reports Aren't Always Uniform When Comparing One State to Another

Recycling rates don't always add up the same way, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Some states use their own methods to calculate recycling rates which does not allow for a true reflection on how the state is doing compared to others. There are five major recycling measurements that can cause differences when comparing one state to another:

1. How the state defines recycling
2. What is counted in the recycling rate
3. How the state defines municipal solid waste (MSW)
4. Whether a base year is used in the recycling calculation or if it is based upon the current year
5. What method is used to convert estimated quantities into tons.

In order to compare state recycling rates, the EPA created a voluntary standardized form available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/recycle/measure/>

Note: The regional recycling rate reports for Virginia localities are due to the Department of Environmental Quality by April 30, 2006. Instructions and the form can be downloaded by going to: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/recycle/documents/2005RRRFormFinal.pdf>. For questions about Virginia's report, contact Steve Coe at 804-698-4029 or gscocoe@deq.virginia.gov

Calendar of Events

April:

- 22 Greater Lynchburg Environmental Network's (GLEN) 2nd Annual Earth Day Gathering Bank of the James Building, 8th Floor. Hosting forums on Green Business and Sustainable Planning and Development and Community Partnerships. www.glenetwork.org
- 22 FREE Electronic Recycling Event 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Prince Edward County Natural Resource Building. Call Clean Virginia Waterways at (434) 395-2602.
- 22 Earth Day Richmond Celebration, Fish Festival and 2nd Annual Mayor's Walk & Roll 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. South end of the Mayo Bridge. 804-649-3764 or www.earthdayrichmond.org
- 29 Arbor Day Family Festival in the City of Richmond at Bryan Park. Sponsored by the Department of Forestry. Includes a paper making exhibit and an electronics drop off. contact Lisa Deaton at (804) 328-3031 or go to www.dof.virginia.gov

May:

- 7 Earth Day 2006 at Mt. Trashmore Park 11 a.m – 5 p.m. Virginia Beach. Contact the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission at (757) 385-4104 or www.VBgov.com/vbclean
- 21 Earth Day Event from 3 – 6 p.m. at 10625 Patterson Avenue, Richmond. Displays by Environmental Solutions, Inc, Virginia, Naturally, CVWMA, and Keep Henrico Beautiful. Contact Tena Krouse at (804) 740-5605.

Rappahannock County School Recycling Successful

Cherl Crews is a PTO mom for Rappahannock Elementary School and a recycling leader in Rappahannock County. She has discovered that the more publicity the recycling program gets, the more the schools are supported through recycling efforts. This means that there is additional money available to buy supplies such as a new kiln for ceramics projects and sheet music for the music program.

The public may drop off printers and fax machines at two county locations. The county gives the ink cartridges to the school for their recycling projects. They also collect cell phones for recycling.

Ms. Crews discovered that local businesses are willing to provide the schools with their old cartridges too. Ms. Crews made collection boxes out of wooden crates that can provide to businesses or organizations that are interested in becoming collection sites.

For more information go to:

www.cartridgesforkids.com/feature.html or contact Mr. Hunt Harris, the Litter Control/Recycling Program Manager for Rappahannock County at: 540-675-3365 or huntoldragon@earthlink.net

KnowToxics Campaign

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission launched a KnowToxics campaign to make businesses, property managers, building managers, waste haulers, and trash collectors aware of the hazards of throwing fluorescent light bulbs and rechargeable batteries into the trash.

To answer such questions such as:

- ✓ What are the legal obligations of a business to recycle batteries, lights, and electronics?
- ✓ Why should agencies be concerned about the proper disposal of the above items?
- ✓ How can a locality develop a management strategy?
- ✓ How do I select a recycling contractor?

Contact Debbie Spiliotopoulos, NRVC's senior environmental planner, call 703-642-0700 or visit the KnowToxics website at: <http://www.knowtoxics.com/faqs.htm>

Biodiesel as an alternative Fuel for Vehicles

James Madison University hosted the 2006 Virginia Biodiesel Conference on Monday, April 3. The conference was attended by approximately 200 legislators, farmers and industry leaders. The focus was on small-scale production and use.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning fuel alternative that is made from corn and vegetable oil. It can be used in a diesel engine and is biodegradable and non-toxic.

The majority of JMU's vehicles run on 5 percent biodiesel and the recycling trucks run on 20 percent biodiesel. In Arlington County, more than 100 school buses use biodiesel.

JMU has an alternative fuels vehicle coordinator. His contact information is Charles McCarty. He can be contacted at 540-568-3329 or mccartch@jmu.edu

To learn more about alternative fuels and how to convert vehicles over to ones that can run on alternative fuel and more about the benefits of using biodiesel go to www.greasecar.com or www.globalstewards.org.

Disclaimer: Reference in this publication to any specific business, commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark or otherwise does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or any other state government agency.